



## FISCAL MEMORANDUM

### HB 2531 - SB 2694

March 7, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (014047):** Changes certain requirements for professional counselors seeking licensure. Allows for a temporary license to be valid for up to four years and to be eligible for extension at the discretion of the Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists (Board). Effective July 1, 2022 for purposes of promulgating rules and January 1, 2023 for all other purposes.

### FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

**Increase State Revenue - \$17,000/FY22-23/**

**Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family  
Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists**

**\$33,400/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years/**

**Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family  
Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists**

**Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists had a surplus of \$37,111 in FY19-20, a surplus of \$103,679 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$978,293 on June 30, 2021.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- There is an average of 1,592 professional counselor licensures issued each year in Tennessee. Assuming the removal of certain requirements would lead to an increase of 10 percent in the number of professional counselors each year, this would result in an increase of 159 professional counselors each year.
- The application cost for a professional counselor licensure is \$210. Therefore, the proposed legislation would lead to a recurring increase in revenue to the Board of \$33,390 (159 x \$210).
- Due to the January 1, 2023 effective date, there will be a half-year impact in FY22-23.
- The total increase to state revenue to the Board in FY22-23 will be \$16,965 (\$33,390 x 50%) and \$33,390 in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 62-22-121(b)(4), a temporary license may not be renewed and is only valid for three years. Therefore, allowing an applicant to

continue to hold a temporary license after they have been denied a permanent license will not create any increased revenue from those denied applicants reapplying for a temporary license.

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists had a surplus of \$37,111 in FY19-20, a surplus of \$103,679 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$978,293 on June 30, 2021.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/cd